

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 176054
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 PA-01
PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:DPSULLIVAN:CCH
APPROVED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS
D//HA - MR. HILL
D/HA - MR. SIEVERTS
EUR/NE - MR. SHUMATE
-----102044 272144Z /65

O R 272121Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 176054

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: ICJ REVIEW ARTICLE ON PRISON CONDITIONS
IN INDONESIA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE FROM ICJ REVIEW NOL 18,
JUNE 1977 (RELEASED IN GENEVA JULY 25) AS DICTATED FROM
OFFICE OF ICJ BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN WILLIAM BUTLER
IN NEW YORK. SEPTTEL IDENTIFIES ACTION REQUESTED OF
JAKARTA AND GENEVA.

QUOTE: A LETTER WRITTEN BY AN INDONESIAN POLITICAL
PRISONER DATED JANUARY 1, 1977 AND ADDRESSED TO THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS HAS BEEN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 176054

SMUGGLED OUT OF PRISON. A COPY HAS COME INTO THE
POSSESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS
(NOT THROUGH THE RED CROSS). THE NAME OF THE AUTHOR
IS KNOWN BUT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS CANNOT BE REVEALED.
THE ICJ IS SATISFIED AS TO THE GENUINENESS OF THE
LETTER AND THE GENERAL RELIABILITY OF THE INFORMATION
IT CONTAINS. THE LETTER PRESENTS A HORRIFYING ACCOUNT

OF CONDITIONS IN THE PRISONS AND PRISON CAMPS.

THE WRITER ADVISES THE RED CROSS THAT AT THE TIME OF THE LAST SERIES OF VISITS, THE JALAN BUDI UTOMO DETENTION CAMP WAS USED TO HIDE PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE SALEMBA, NIRBAYA AND OTHER PRISONS, "BECAUSE IT IS FEARED THAT THESE PEOPLE WILL HAVE THE COURAGE TO REVEAL ALL THE SECRETS OF THE INHUMAN AND ARBITRARY TREATMENT METED OUT TO THE TAPOLS (POLITICAL PRISONERS)". A LIST IS INCLUDED OF 26 PERSONS TRANSFERRED FROM THE HEAVY ISOLATION CELL BLOCK AT SALEMBA PRISON BEFORE THE RED CROSS VISIT. SALEMBA PRISON, INITIALLY BUILT TO ACCOMMODATE 500 PRISONERS, HAS BEEN USED SINCE THE 1965 ATTEMPTED COMMUNIST COUP TO HOUSE 2,000. IT CONTAINS "ISOLATION BLOCK N, WHERE THE PRISONER IS KEPT IN A NARROW CELL 24 HOURS A DAY, WITHOUT TAKING AIR...FOR YEARS WITHOUT KNOWING HIS CRIME". THE LENGTH OF DETENTION OF THOSE LISTED RANGED FROM 2 TO 12 YEARS, WITH AN AVERAGE TERM OF 10 YEARS.

IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE RED CROSS VISIT, PILLOWS, PANS, MUSIC, TWO TELEVISION SETS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT WERE PROVIDED TO THE PRISONERS AT SALEMBA PRISON. DETAINEES WERE TOLD BY AUTHORITIES THAT IF THEY WERE APPROACHED BY THE OBSERVATION TEAM "THEY SHOULD NOT SPEAK ABOUT THINGS THAT THEY HAD EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST, BUT ONLY ABOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 176054

THINGS AS THEY NOW ARE". THE AUTHOR OF THE LETTER ASKED THE RED CROSS TO ENSURE THAT INTERVIEWS WITH PRISONERS BE CONDUCTED IN PRIVATE, WITHOUT SUPERVISION, SAYING THAT "IF INFORMATION GIVEN BY A PRISONER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL, STEPS WOULD CERTAINLY BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE TAPOLS, AS HAVE HAPPENED IN TANGERANG PRISON ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION".

IT IS THE NORMAL PRACTICE OF THE ICRC TO INTERVIEW PRISONERS ALONE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THEY MET WITH OBSTRUCTION ON THIS OCCASION. IN ITS MAY 4, 1977 BULLETIN, THE ICRC REPORTED THAT "ITS DELEGATE'S FINDINGS COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS AN INDICATION OF THE REAL CONDITIONS OF DETENTION IN INDONESIA FOR TWO REASONS; THE LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES VISITED, AND THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE VISIT".

THE LETTER STATES THAT LITTLE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE HAS OCCURRED IN PRISON DIET OR CALORIE INTAKE IN 12 YEARS, WITH THE AVERAGE DAILY INTAKE BETWEEN 800 AND 1,000 CALORIES A DAY. (THE REQUIRED MINIMUM CALORIE STANDARD IS 2500 PER DAY). ONLY IN RARE CASES ARE FAMILIES OF

PRISONERS ALLOWED TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD FOR
DETAINEES.

AS A RESULT OF DEFICIENT NOURISHMENT MOST PRISONERS
CONTRACT A WIDE VARIETY OF DISEASES. THE NUMBER OF
DEATHS CAUSED BY BERI-BERI AND MALNUTRITION HAS REACHED
AN AVERAGE OF 2 PRISONERS EVERYDAY IN SALEMBA AND
TANGERANG PRISONS. MORE THAN 15,000 PRISONERS HAVE
DIED IN NORTH SUMATRA AND SURABAYA.

PRISON MEDICAL FACILITIES, MEANWHILE, WERE GROSSLY
INADQUATE. ACUTELY ILL PATIENTS WERE NOT TRANSFERRED
TO THE ARMY HOSPITAL, BUT INSTEAD WERE ADMITTED ONLY
TO THE SALEMBA PRISON POLYCLINIC. DETAINED DOCTORS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 176054

WHO ATTENDED TO PRISONERS WERE OFTEN DISCIPLINED FOR
DOING SO. THE WRITER NAMES 9 PRISONERS WHO DIED IN
THE 24-HOUR ISOLATION CELL BLOCK AT SALEMBA PRISON.

HE ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THOSE DETAINED
EXPERIENCED SOME FORM OF TORTURE OR INDISCRIMINATE
MALTREATMENT DURING INTERROGATION, REGARDLESS OF THE
PERSON'S BACKGROUND OR THE PRESUMED CHARGE. BEATINGS
WITH HARD SPIKED OBJECTS, ELECTRIC SHOCK TREATMENTS,
PULLING OUT FINGERNAILS, CRUSHING THE HANDS UNDER
TABLE LEGS, AND PLACING THE PRISONER IN AN OIL DRUM,
WHICH IS THEN BEATEN ON THE OUTSIDE, WERE AMONG THE
FORMS OF TORTURE LISTED. THE LETTER ALSO DETAILS THE
TORTURE OF CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE RAPE
AND BURNING OF THE VAGINA OF PRISONERS' WIVES.

BECAUSE THE VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BECOME SUCH AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE
INDONESIAN PRISON EXPERIENCES, THE AUTHOR ASSERTS THAT
THE CLASSIFICATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS INTO SEPARATE
CATEGORIES IS "PURE NONSENSE", IF INDIVIDUALS ARE COM-
PELLED TO CONFESS, REGARDLESS OF THE NATURE OF THE
ALLEGED CRIME. FURTHERMORE, THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES
DO NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY DIFFERENT PRISON REGIMES.

THE WRITER CONTENDS THAT THE PRISONER RELEASE FIGURES
ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT DURING 1975 WERE SIGNIFI-
CANTLY EXAGGERATED. THE CLAIMED RELEASE OF 2,000
CATEGORY B PRISONERS IN FACT AFFECTED ONLY 150 PERSONS,
WHO WERE RELEASED IN BATCHES OF 30 AND 40. LIKEWISE,
A 1976 FIGURE OF 2500 INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED MERELY SOME
120 PRISONERS, MANY OF THEM LISTED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S
QUOTA. IN ADDITION, FAMILIES OF RELEASED PRISONERS IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 176054

THE JAKARTA AREA WERE OFTEN ORDERED TO PAY "ADMINISTRATION COSTS" RANGING FROM 25,000 RUPIAH ("US DOLS 1 EQUAL 375 RP.") FOR A LOW RANKING OFFICER TO 1 MILLION RUPIAH FOR PROMINENT PRISONERS. UPON RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE HELD UNDER HOUSE ARREST FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING REARRESTED.

THE WRITER ALSO NOTES A WIDESPREAD FEELING IN INDONESIA THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL INTEGRITY, THAT DEMOCRACY IS SUPPRESSED, AND THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL JUSTICE. LOWER ECHELONS OF THE STATE APPARATUS NO LONGER PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE LAWS OR THE REGULATIONS MADE BY THEIR SUPERIORS. INSTEAD, THE AUTHORITIES CURRENTLY ABRIDGE CIVIL RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY LAW, "BY ARRESTING PERSONS WITHOUT CAUSE AND DETAINING THEM IN EXCESS OF THE PERIOD STIPULATED BY LAW". THE LETTER NOTES THAT MANY OF THOSE DETAINED IN PRISONS ARE BEING HELD ON THE BASIS OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE, MERELY ON SUSPICION, IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW. THE RULE OF LAW, THE AUTHOR CONCLUDES, HAS BEEN REPLACED BY "THE LAW OF THE RULERS". UNQUOTE. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISON CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE176054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DPSULLIVAN:CCH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770269-0500
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770712/aaaaaklq.tel
Line Count: 196
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2802f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1730990
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICJ REVIEW ARTICLE ON PRISON CONDITIONS IN INDONESIA
TAGS: SHUM, PORS, ID, IJC
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2802f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009